India's Losing Supply of Unfinished Shoes to U.S.A.

689. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost to the Dominican Republic its position as the largest supplier of unfinished shoes to the U.S.A. as reported by the World Bank;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for India's losing pre-eminence in U.S. shoe market; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to retrieve the lost U.S. market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) While the export figures of unfinished shoes from the Dominican Republic to U.S.A. are not available, as per information available with Council for Leather Exports, Madras, India's export of shoe uppers to U.S.A. has not shown any appreciable decline, as may be observed from the table below:

	(value in Millions US Dollar)
1987-88 . . .	22.84
1988-89 . . .	28.85
1989-90 . . .	29.90
1990-91 . . .	28.54

(*Source*: —Council for Leather Export Madras)

(b) and (c) In absolute terms, there has been an increase in exports of complete shoes to USA as indicated below:

	(value in Million US Dollars)
1987-88 . . .	24.47
1988-89 . . .	26.71
1989-90 . . .	32.78
1990-91 . . .	40.19

(*Source*: Council for Leather Export Madras)

Details of India's Exports and Imports with U.S.S.R.

690. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the largest share of India's exports was to former U.S.S.R.;

(b) what is the item-wise details of quantum of annual exports to former U.S.S.R., since 1980 till its disintegration;

(c) what is the value of exports outstanding, if any, to be realised from the former Soviet Union vis-a-vis the value of imports to be paid by India, if any; and

(d) what procedure is being followed to settle the previous balances of both the export and import accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The item-wise details of quantum of India's annual exports to countries including the erstwhile USSR are available in Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India and Monthly Brochures of Foreign Trade Statistics of India, the copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union the Reserve Bank of India was constrained to hold in abeyance operations of the accounts in India of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR. Consequently, reimbursement of payments to exporters was stopped on 27-12-1991. Subsequently the following arrangements were worked out to facilitate payments in respect of trade commitments already made by Indian exporters. The Reserve Bank of India agreed to settle the replenishment claims from authorised dealers in India, maintaining the accounts of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR, in respect of (i) giods shipped up to 31st December, 1991 and (ii) goods shipped after 31st December, 1991 but not later than 31st March, 1992 against letters

of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters up to 31st December, 1991.

Fall in the Export of Traditional Items

691. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarded Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our export performance has been steadily declining in respect of all traditional items ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the basic reasons for such decline ;

(d) what efforts have been made and results achieved by Government in respect of export of non-traditional engineering and other finished goods since the last financial year ; and

(e) what effective steps are being taken by Government to boost the exports and to make good the loss of market suffered since the changes in former Soviet Union and the East European countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. The export of traditional goods has increased from Rs. 6278 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 7634 crores in 1989-90 and Rs. 9256 crores in 1990-91. The export of these items further increased to Rs. 10090 crores during the first ten months (April—January) of 1991-92.

(d) and (e) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992-93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March, 1992, which, *inter-alia*, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian Industry and thereby to enhence its export capabilities. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc. In additon, the Government has opened a dialogue with the newly formed Republic of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and signed bilateral agreements with a number of them already.

मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल द्वारा अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के लिए प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन

692. **श्री गुफरान आजम** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल ने कुछ समय पहले अपने कुछ अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों में अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के पदों पर भर्ती हेतु एक प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह परीक्षा कब आयोजित की गयी थी;

(ग) क्या इस परीक्षा का परिणाम घोषित कर दिया गया है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ङ) सफल उम्मीदवारों को कब तक नियुक्ति पत्र भेज दिये जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल में ऐसे अनुवादकों के कितने पद खाली हैं और ये पद किस तारीख से खाली पड़े हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) परीक्षा 16 फरवरी, 1991 को आयोजित की गई ।